

**Amendment to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-22. Cancelled (Without disclaimer or prejudice).

23. (New) A network for communicating with a plurality of radiotelephones via respective communication channels over a carrier, wherein the channels can operate at a first or second data rate such that the carrier can transmit a single communication channel operating at the first data rate or two communication channels operating at the second data rate, the network comprising a controller responsive to an initiation of a channel with a second network for initiating a change in the data rate of a transmitted channel from the first data rate to the second data rate.

24. (New) A network according to claim 23 wherein the communication channels are timeslots on the carrier.

25. (New) A network according to claim 24 wherein the channels can operate at a first or second data rate such that a timeslot on the carrier can transmit a single communication channel operating at the first data rate or two communication channels operating at the second data rate.

26. (New) A network according to claim 24 wherein the controller is responsive to the initiation of a channel with the second network for initiating a change in the data rate of two channels transmitted on separate timeslots from the first data rate to the second data rate and combining the two channels onto the same timeslot.

27. (New) A network according to claim 23, wherein the first data rate is a full speech rate and the second data rate is a half speech rate.

28. (New) A network according to claim 23, wherein the controller is responsive to the number of channels established in the network exceeding a predetermined threshold for initiating a change in the data rate of the transmitted channel from the first data rate to the second data rate.

29. (New) A network according to claim 23, wherein the change of data rate of a transmitted channel is performed for a connection between subscribers within the network.

30. (New) A controller for operation in a network wherein the network communicates with a plurality of radiotelephones via respective communication channels over a carrier, the channels being operable at a first or second data rate such that the carrier can transmit a single communication operating at the first data rate or two communication channels operating at the second data rate, the controller comprising means responsive to an initiation of a channel with a second network for

initiating a change in the data rate of a transmitted channel from the first data rate to the second data rate.

31. (New) A controller according to claim 30 wherein the communication channels are timeslots on the carrier.

32. (New) A controller according to claim 31 wherein the channels are operable at a first or second data rate such that a timeslot on the carrier can transmit a single communication operating at the first data rate or two communication channels operating at the second data rate.

33. (New) A controller according to claim 31 wherein the controller is responsive to the initiation of a channel with the second network for initiating a change in the data rate of two channels transmitted on separate timeslots from the first data rate to the second data rate and combining the two channels onto the same timeslot.

34. (New) A controller according to claim 30, wherein the first data rate is a full speech rate and the second data rate is a half speech rate.

35. (New) A controller according to claim 30, wherein the controller is responsive to the number of channels established in the network exceeding a predetermined threshold for initiating a change in the data rate of the transmitted channel from the first data rate to the second data rate.

36. (New) A controller according to claim 30 wherein the change of data rate of a transmitted channel is performed for a connection between subscribers within the network.

37. (New) A radiotelephone for operation with a network which initiates a change in data rate of a channel from a first data rate to a second data rate in response to an initiation of a channel with a second network, the radiotelephone comprising a controller responsive to a signal from the network for changing the data rate of data being transmitted on a channel from a radiotelephone.

38. (New) A method of communicating with a plurality of radiotelephones via respective communication channels over a carrier, wherein the channels can operate at a first or second data rate such that the carrier can transmit a single communication channel operating at the first data rate or two communication channels operating at the second data rate, the method comprising changing the data rate in response to an initiation of a channel with a second network.

39. (New) A method according to claim 38 wherein the communication channels are timeslots on the carrier.

40. (New) A method according to claim 17 wherein the channels can operate at a first or second data rate such that a timeslot on the carrier can transmit a single communication channel operating at the first data rate or two communication channels operating at the second data rate.

41. (New) A method according to claim 38, further comprising in response to the predetermined condition initiating a change in the data rate of two channels transmitted on separate timeslots from the first data rate to the second data rate and combining the two channels onto the same timeslot.